



The last issue of VILTIS was really terrific. Every time I receive one, I say that it just can't be beat. Then you send the next one, and it's even better. How do you do it?

ALICE NUGENT, Denver, Colo.

I have read the latest VILTIS from cover to cover and enjoyed every word. I can truthfully say it is the one magazine I read every word.

VIRGINIA THOMAS, Los Angeles, Calif.

VILTIS—the best folk dance magazine I've ever seen. (yo' toot'n right—VFB).

CAROL WHITNEY, Weston, Mass.

Well, I'm alive—thanks God, and so I cannot be without VILTIS. Enclosed find 2 dollars for my renewal.

MURRAY DRILLER, Forrest Hills, N. Y.

Objects to Litvak Terms for Liths

Although you don't forget to explain very explicitly that "LITVAK" applies to Lithuanian Jews only, I am inclined to object to your statement that this term "... is coming to refer to Lithuanians themselves." "Litvak," being known among Jews only, cannot possibly become a term of general use for designating Lithuanians by the general public for the mere fact that the Jewish linguistic influence to American slang is not pronounced. An isolated observation of the said use makes the statement an over-generalization. (It is not isolated throughout the West, but rather general. VFB.)

As I can see, there is, at the present, only one possible way for helping those who have difficulty in the way of pronouncing English words: the same term which VILTIS used for many years—"Lith" and "Liths" instead of Lithuanian and Lithuanians.

Liutas Grinius
South Bend, Ind.

* * *

THE DANCE SITUATION

Yes, we too have that same feeling. It's a putrid situation and many many dancers feel that they do not belong in the square dance at all because of the veritable rainstorm of new rounds which are always making their appearance at hourly intervals, which they do not hope to be able to learn nor be able to dance. Evidence of this is seen at many jamborees at which when a round dance number is played only a few dancers get out on the floor while the others sit on the sidelines and are given the privilege of watching.

To me square dancing is lots of fun, and we've taught thousands of folks to have fun doing them and the bait used being "if you can walk, you can Square Dance!" Now if we do not teach about 25 percent of them the whirling stuff so that the others can sit back and watch them, we too are passe.

John Gardner
Green Bay, Wis.

FROM GEORGE MURTON

The thing I like so much about the articles that you write is the fact that you pull no punches whatsoever. If you like something you so state and if you see something that has a weakness you bring it to the fore without being too critical about it, that is to say, you are constructive in everything that you say. It certainly represented kind, calm, and careful thought on your part. Keep up the good work, my boy, yours is the spirit we need in the folk movement.

George Murton, Jr.
Redwood City, Cal.

Rickey Holden Enthralled

The latest VILTIS came today, and I must say I am enthralled with your article on the state of the dance movement in the U.S. during the last year or so. It is so magnificent that I should like your permission to reprint portions of it in AMERICAN SQUARES.

Rickey Holden, Editor
San Antonio, Texas

KNOTT of N.F.F. Fame, Agrees

In your "Folk Dance Situation in the U.S.," I surely agree. In fact, that was a part of what I wanted to say in an article for VILTIS.

Sarah Gertrude Knott
National Folf Festival Director

From "LET'S DANCE" Editor

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed VILTIS, especially the article "The Dance Situation in U.S." You are really brave to settle down in the hot-bed of square dancing in Southern California.

It's too bad the "high level" boys don't realize that as folk dancers (International) and square dancers we are all folk dancers. Like all good Americans we are either Democrats or Republicans and should respect the other's affiliations. Not so with square dancers.

Perhaps it is the few who have found that certain appeal of being in the limelight, that self-satisfaction gained from yelling into a mike and having a hundred or so people jump at their command! Perhaps they are leading this anti-folk movement. I know they are very jealous of their membership for up here in San Rafael there was a club that belonged to the Square Dancers Association (not a Federation body) and they were warned against too many folk dances on their program. They were investigated by a committee and told to conform (drop the folk dances)! The group refused and so were dumped, they lost a few members over it, but folk dancing gained a much larger group of people.

All these bear out your fine editorial "The Dance Situation in the U.S."

Another item I liked was the term "recreational number" used with the Helena Polka.

Good Health to you, Sincerely,
Bob Chevalier
San Anselmo, Calif.

Paul Kermiet Disagrees:

I'm inclined to disagree with you somewhat. You're a little too critical and pessimistic. I'll agree that some of these rounds are badly put together, that many of them won't last, that there are too many, that the music for some is lousy, and that record companies foster same in order to sell more records. But on the other hand all these same situations hold true for the Folk dancer and square dancer. In fact, the average folk dancer will boast of the 200 or 300 folk dances he knows and does many which are no longer being danced in their native lands and the tunes of which have long been forgotten.

And one more point, the tougher folk dances are much harder to master than the most complicated present day round dances and are much more strenuous and require a greater outlay of energy. As much as I love the Hambo, I could last out two rat-race squares of ten minutes each and not feel half as tired as dancing one record of the Hambo. Since I've been in both kinds of clubs, I can honestly say that I've seen no difference in fellowship. There are five types of dancers, excluding the jitterbug and modern dancer; the Arthur Murray type, square dancer, folk dancer, American round dancers, and one who just loves to dance anything. I'd like to see more of the latter.

Paul Kermiet
Golden, Colorado

(Paul's was the only dissenting note. "Peace it is Wonderful" when one lives on romantic Look-Out Mountain away from the strifes of the dance world. VFB.)



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